

March 16, 2012

TO Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

FR: Michael Olschafskie
Connecticut Taxicabs and Livery Council, Inc.

RE: Senate Bill 401

Senate Bill 401 would impose the sales tax on certain taxi cab rides. We urge you not to support this.

Fares for rides that start or end outside of the vehicle's normal territory would be taxed. Many of our customers are seniors, low-income and disabled, who rely on us to get them to the grocery store, senior center or other appointments. Any tax would be passed onto them as an addition to the fare.

We are a form of public transportation and are obligated to take a customer to whatever location they need no matter what time of day or night. Livery companies have no such obligation.

We are barely making it right now. Gas prices are already eroding our margins. The last thing we need is a new tax to collect on our customers.

For these reasons, we urge you to take no action on SB 401. Thank you.